The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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To be active is the primary vocation of man.—Goethe.

WHOLE NO. 991. WILLIAM GREEN, President WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, APRIL 5, 1930. FRANK MORRISON, Secretary VOL. 20, NO. 4.

"YELLOW DOG" JUDGES IGNORE ELEMENTAL JUSTICE

Labor's opposition to Judge Parker's appointment as Supreme Court associate justice again puts the "yellow dog" in the limelight.

The "yellow dog" is enforced by an injunction judge.

The worker, in signing this alleged contract, surrenders his right to do a lawful thing—to not join a trade union while so employed.

The injunction judge accepts the fiction that a worker seeking employment is on an equal footing with a powerful industrial corporation.

This romanticism is only held by men who support injustice and who approve a pledge that is wrung from helpless job seekers.

The worker signs the "yellow dog" because he needs employment. He is not a free agent. The corporation takes advantage of his necessities. To provide food and shelter for himself and dependents he must place himself at the mercy of an employer who can enforce any condition he elects. The worker subordinates his independence to the will of another, and this mental attitude is reflected in every social and civic activity.

The "yellow dog" violates the first element of contract law—that an agreement is void if either party signs under duress.

To enforce this slave pact, the machinery of government is thrown on the side of employer.

This miserly procedure can only be defended by double-tongued injunction judges and the men who place them in office.

The "yellow dog" has proven an effective substitute for anti-strike legislation. Maryland, West Virginia and ten other States enacted compulsory labor legislation during the World War. This was accepted at that time, but was found to be unenforceable after the armistice.

Governor Allen of Kansas, now United States Senator, secured the passage of an anti-strike law in that State. The plan was wildly acclaimed by men who realized its serf significance.

This proposal was urged on the floor of the United State Senate by Senators Sherman of Illinois, Poindexter of Washington and Myer of Oregon.

The scheme was wrecked by labor's unyielding opposition and employers turned to the "yellow dog" that fastens the worker to his job as securely as any anti-strike law.

The "yellow dog," from the employer's standpoint, is more effective than a statutory act. It is surrounded by the sacredness of contract and the awe with which many workers have been taught to look upon judges who can jail or fine for contempt of court any one who even suggests trade unionism.

A judge is unfit who fails to grasp the unfairness of the "yellow dog" and its absence of the first essential of a contract.

He also fails to apply a major principle of equity—that a plaintiff must come into court with clean hands.

Such a judge is unlearned in elemental justice and intellectual processes so necessary to decide issues that have developed out of our new economic life.

ANTI-INJUNCTION IS MAJOR ISSUE IN LABOR'S NO-PARTY CAMPAIGN

Washington, April 5.—Anti-injunction legislation is the important issue that confronts organized labor in the November elections, says President Green and Secretary Morrison in a call to organized labor to prepare for the fall campaign. The call is issued by authority of the A. F. of L. executive council.

All members of the House of Representatives, 435 in number, will be elected. Thirty-five Senators in 34 States will be chosen. Kansas elects two Senators.

"Every state and city central body and local union should appoint a non-partisan political campaign committee or direct its legislative committee to perform the necessary duties during the campaign," the letter states.

"The following question should be submitted to every candidate for Congress, no matter what his political faith:

"'Will you vote for a bill to amend the judicial code and to define and limit the jurisdiction of courts sitting in equity, which will provide:

"'That no court of the United States shall have jurisdiction to issue any restraining order or temporary or permanent injunction in a case involving or growing out of a labor dispute?'"

"Every candidate in every district should be asked the above question. State Federations of Labor and city central bodies should submit the question to candidates for the United States Senate.

"If labor expects to eliminate labor injunctions from the Federal courts we must have a sufficient number of friends in Congress to bring about that result.

"Support only those candidates who have proved the genuineness of their service, or their desire for service, to the people and labor. There must be no apathy.

"Let your slogan be: We will not vote for a candidate for Congress who is opposed to a law prohibiting the issuance of injunctions in labor disputes.

"Let every member of every trade union delegate himself a committee of one, in addition to the local non-partisan political campaign committee, to carry out the non-partisan policy of the A. F. of L."

WIN FIVE-DAY WEEK

Memphis, April 5.—Organized bricklayers, starting April 1, are working five days a week.

Workers Oppose Judge Parker; He Aided Vicious "Yellow Dog"

Washington, April 5.—Judge Parker's appointment as associate justice of the United States Supreme Court is opposed by organized labor.

In a public statement President Green declared that Judge Parker's decision in the Red Jacket case shows that he placed property rights above human rights.

The Red Jacket (Consolidated Coal and Coke Company) case was a combination of West Virginia coal owners who secured an injunction from Federal District Judge McClintick. The order was appealed to the Federal Circuit Court of Appeals by the United Mine Workers.

Judge Parker, as a member of the appeals court, wrote the decision which upheld the lower court's defense of the "yellow dog" and swept every right from the unionists.

The Parker decision classed the miners' attempt to unionize West Virginia as a "conspiracy to interfere with interstate commerce."

"The decision," said President Green, "showed that Judge Parker placed property rights above and superior to human rights. He approved this injunction which virtually reduced West Virginia miners to approximately industrial servitude.

"The officers and members of the A. F. of L. believe that the attitude shown by Judge Parker in this injunction case reveals a judicial state of mind which totally unfits him for service as a member of the Supreme Court of the United States."

ARE ECONOMISTS TWISTED?

Workers are advised that wages can not be raised unless output is increased.

Government bureaus, however, take a contrary position when advising sellers of commodities. These business men are assured that less oil, wheat, cotton and tobacco means higher prices.

Corporations, also, are lessening output—"stabilization" they call it.

But when workers demand a short work day, the scheme doesn't seem to work.

Is it possible that our economists have different systems for different groups?

Or that economic laws are not as inexorable as we are led to believe?

OUTLAW THAT "OPEN" SHOP TERM

Anti-union employers understand psychology—the science of the human mind. This is why they no longer make frontal attacks on organized labor. They invent window-dressing terms that are used to confuse.

The "open" shop term is effective gas warfare because it appeals to man's inherent sense of fairness while concealing the anti-unionist's objective.

Collective bargaining is the standard by which these employers should be judged. In denying this process, they resort to trickery.

The "open" shop term should have no place in the lexicon of trade unionists and sympathizers.

Such a shop is anti-union and should be referred to as such.

When a friend of organized labor uses the term "open" shop he would obscure and mystify. This defeatist policy is an aid to the anti-union employer who strives to evade a clear-cut issue.

MEXICAN ALIEN FLOOD OPPOSED BY WORKERS

Washington, April 5.—Cheap labor advocates are massing their forces against immigration bill (H. R. 10343) which has been approved by the House Immigration Committee.

The bill would place immigrants from countries of the Western Hemisphere under a quota law, but the fight is being made by large employing interests to defeat the bill because it will check the admission of Mexicans that total as high as 70,000 annually.

One of the opposition schemes is to create a commission that will study the so-called agricultural labor shortage in the West and Southwest. The purpose of this move is to secure postponement of the House bill.

President Green calls attention to evidence placed before the House Committee that in January last there were 15,000 unemployed Mexicans in San Antonio and Houston alone. The same reports come from other sections in the Southwest, the Gulf and the Pacific States.

It is estimated that there are more than 2,500,000 Mexicans in the United States at the present time who work for wages that can not maintain American standards.

If this unfair competition from Latin American countries is to be checked, organized labor and sympathizers must inform their Congressmen.

"We have endeavored for a number of years to solve this problem and this is our first opportunity to obtain results," said President Green, who urges trade unionists to protect their interests by calling on their Congressmen to favor House bill 10343.

GREEN SOWED UNION SEED IN TWO SOUTHERN TOURS

Birmingham, Ala., April 5.—The southern organizing campaign, inaugurated by President Green in January and supplemented by him in a second tour in March, has caused a better general understanding of trade unionism. It is agreed that seed has been sown for substantial gains, and that from now on trade unionism throughout the South will be considered a larger social factor.

The effect on trade unionists is reflected in programs being prepared for State Federations of Labor conventions that will be held in the South during the next few weeks.

Reports from Georgia, Tennessee and this State indicate the widespread interest that has taken hold of workers who will make organization methods and proposed labor legislation the leading topics of their gatherings.

In Georgia, where labor legislation is badly needed, delegates will call on State legislators for remedial laws. It has been suggested that that State Federation seek some reciprocal arrangement between employers and employed whereby a system of shorter hours may be arranged, thereby making jobs for the idle. It is also proposed that the Federation formulate building programs to stimulate work in the building trades.

Charlotte (N. C.) Central Labor Union asked business men and State officials to speed up construction work, and South Carolina trade unions urge officials to proceed with its $5,000,000 road program. Southern trade unionists are also protesting against wage cuts by anti-union concerns that ignore promises made to President Hoover.

These activities are approved by the Southern Christian Advocate, published in Columbia, S. C. In a leading editorial the editor says President Green, in his address to the legislature of that State, "manifested a helpful spirit and mind for fairness and justice."

The editor states that he is in hearty accord with President Green's "two outstanding statements"—the aims and purposes of the A. F. of L. and proper legislation for the protection of labor, especially women and children.

"DOLE OR WORK FOR JOBLESS," NATION'S CHOICE, SAYS GREEN

Washington, April 5.—"Unemployment in February this year was the most serious we experienced in the three winters we have collected figures," said President Green, in urging a Senate committee to favor Senator Wagner's bills on the unemployment problem.

These bills provide for long-time planning of public works, establishment of federal employment agencies and collection of employment and related data on a more extensive scale by the Federal Bureau of Labor Statistics. President Green presented several amendments to the bills which were accepted by the author.

The A. F. of L. executive insisted that present out-of-work conditions must be faced and that unemployment insurance is the only alternative for work.

"Our February figures indicate that approximately one worker in every four was idle," said Mr. Green. "In the building trades 43 per cent, or approximately one out of every two were unemployed. Wage payments in manufacturing industry dropped 14 per cent since the stock crash and 12 per cent to railroad employes."

The trade unionist declared that this is an impossible situation and that no section of our country can escape the far-reaching consequences that follow such widespread unemployment.

"We have recently been learning more of the interdependence between employment, wages, maintenance of production and prosperity," said Mr. Green. "Steady increases in wage earners' incomes are necessary to provide buyers for increased output of industries and agriculture. In other words, wages become an aspect of business credit on which the producer must calculate. High wages are a sustaining element in prosperity and prevention of unemployment.

"Unemployment is a problem which has plagued workers and communities for decades and is beyond the power of individuals or groups to cope with. It is a social as well as an industrial problem and requires the joint efforts of every organization or element concerned with it."

NEW JERSEY GOVERNOR OPPOSES FASCIST IDEA

Trenton, N. J., April 5.—The establishment of a one-house legislature and State appointments by the Governor without consent or approval of the law-making branch, is opposed by Governor Morgan F. Larson.

The attempt to Fascistize this State is made by the National Institute of Public Administration, a New York organization that advises people to surrender their control of public officials under the guise of "efficiency" and "economy."

In a special message to the legislature, Governor Larson declared that "experience indicates that the present practice of appointment by the executive with the advice and consent of the Senate has its advantages."

The Governor questioned whether the people would be willing to accept the Fascist idea by placing such uncontrolled power in the hands of one man.

In reply to the claim that the scheme is not "radical," but that it now exists in seven of the nine Canadian provinces, the Governor said:

"The report, however, fails to distinguish between the constitutional organization of a Canadian province and that of a State in the American Union. The latter is a free and independent sovereign, while the former is a province of an empire, in which the king, and not the provincial governor, has the veto power."

EMOTION POOR PROP FOR TRADE UNIONS

Memphis, April 5.—"When workers organize through emotional appeals it is our experience that they fall away at the first sign of battle," said President Cohen of the Trades and Labor Council.

Local trade unionists adopted a "hands off" policy in the fight against chain stores. President Cohen said the chains are not the only ones who pay starvation wages and that an educational campaign is necessary to impress upon all retail clerks the need for unionization.

"No employer," said Mr. Cohen, "will pay clerks any more than he has to."

RAILROAD MERGERS WILL WRECK TOWNS

Washington, April 5.—Unregulated railroad consolidations without regard to the interests of the public or railroad employes is opposed by the Railroad Labor Executives' Association.

The association is composed of the executives of all the standard railroad labor organizations and is spokesman for more than 1,500,000 employes.

The labor unions studied this problem for over a year and make cause with cities and towns that face practical ruin through change of terminals, division points and shipping centers as a certain result of railroad consolidations.

These cities and towns will lose the essential basis of their prosperity when thousands of workers are moved away, merchants lose trade and real estate values are destroyed as railroad traffic centers are shifted and eliminated.

The rail employes point out that practical railroad managers are seldom found promoting consolidations, as they recognize that as rail systems increase in size they lose in economy and efficiency in operation.

These consolidations are promoted by financial manipulators and will not provide better service, but will burden the carriers with increased fixed capital charges, destroy desirable competition and undermine basic prosperity of hundreds of communities.

The employes suggest that broad powers be given the Interstate Commerce Commission to investigate all factors before these combinations are approved.

FOREMEN OFFER AID IN DIXIE CAMPAIGN

Birmingham, Ala., April 5.—"Something must be done to relieve textile workers," says a mill superintendent, writing to Paul J. Smith, chairman A. F. of L. Southern organizing campaign.

The writer is one of several superintendents, foremen, overseers and other minor officials who have acquainted trade unionists with conditions in many mills, and who offer their services in an effort to improve conditions.

"The long work-day and low wages are shameful," declares another writer. "Human life is not considered, and women and children are employed at nights. The 60-hour week is the rule for these mills that are under absentee owners whose only interest is profits."

FIVE-DAY WORK WEEK FOR BUILDING TRADES

Washington, April 5.—The unionized building trades industry in the Nation's Capital will operate on the five-day week beginning May 1. The last groups to drop the five and one-half day schedule will be rodmen, iron workers, carpenters and bricklayers. Electricians abandoned the extra half day last year.

Increased efficiency, it is stated, will make it possible for the present force to handle the work, as nearly all construction is ahead of schedule.

STATE UNIONS TO MEET

Chattanooga, April 5.—Officers of the Tennessee Federation of Labor issued a call for the annual convention to be held in this city starting May 12.

Plans will be developed to intensify the A. F. of L. organizing campaign in the South.

PLANT LESS TOBACCO, FARM BOARD ADVISES

Washington, April 5.—What would happen if a government board advised workers to reduce hours that production could be lessened?

The Federal Farm Board is giving this advice to farmers, who are being frantically called upon to do less work.

In a telegram to State officials, the board calls attention to Department of Agriculture statistics on the "seriousness of the situation" that will follow increased tobacco acreage. This information, the telegram states, should be placed in the hands of every tobacco grower.

BUILDING PARLEY INCLUDES WORKER

Washington, April 5.—President McDonough of the Building Trades Department, A. F. of L., is included in President Hoover's appointments to represent this country at the Fifth International Congress of Building and Public Works, to be held May 26-30, in London.

The delegation includes nearly a score of government officials and representatives of the building and construction industries.

POLICE JOB CENSUS HELD "SMOKE SCREEN"

Philadelphia, April 5.—A police census of unemployed, ordered by the mayor, is declared a "smoke screen" by local unionists.

Editor Rodgers of the Union Labor Record and 60 representative trade unionists in scattered sections of the city checked up with business agents of the larger unions and could find only three members of organized labor who had been visited by the police.

HIGH-SALARIED MEN ON CHATTEL BASIS

New York, April 5.—"Never before were so many salaried men looking for positions," says Forbes Magazine, financial spokesman, published in this city.

"Men formerly receiving $10,000 to $30,000 are now anxious to start at half salary," says this publication, which frankly declares: "Thus, many 'bargains' in human material are available."

"Since the financial panic struck, many corporations immediately instituted drastic housecleaning," it is stated. "Even before then an unusually large number of minor executives—as well as high-up executives—had been dropped as the result of the endless series of mergers."

The magazine says large organizations have a system of handling "ordinary applicants for employment," but no such system exists for salaried men.

"It is extremely desirable that victims of our economic revolution should be treated with every courtesy and encouragement," says this magazine.

PENSION BILL PASSED BY NEW YORK SENATE

Albany, N. Y., April 5.—The State Senate unanimously passed the Mastick-Bernhardt old-age relief bill, effective the first of next year. The bill was amended to strengthen State control of disbursements. Relief will be paid to men and women who are 70. It is expected that further amendments will be made after the law becomes effective.

UPHOLD FAIR WAGE

Toronto, Ontario, April 5.—The local Board of Arbitration ordered that the "fair wage" scale be strictly observed. Contractors and employes must make affidavit to this effect before payments are made.

OUT-OF-WORK CRISIS ATTRACTS GOVERNOR

Albany, N. Y., April 5.—Governor Roosevelt appointed a committee of five to direct an educational campaign against unemployment and in behalf of the future stabilization of employment. The committee, empowered to add to its membership, includes Miss Frances Perkins, State Commissioner of Labor, and John Sullivan, president New York Federation of Labor.

The Governor admitted in his statement, that his recent effort to obtain accurate data on unemployment by direct inquiry of Chambers of Commerce and local labor bodies had not proved successful.

These reports all admitted that unemployment is "serious," but their estimates varied from 5 to 75 per cent and in nearly all cases were supplemented by statements that it was impossible to obtain exact figures.

Commenting on the easing of the emergency which Spring should bring, the Governor said this would not be sufficient to stabilize business, and gave warning that "if we do not make plans now the slump of the autumn and winter of 1930-31 will be more distressing than ever, coming after this year's crisis, with its call on savings and reserves.

"I am convinced that concerted action of all elements in the community can do much to remedy existing unemployment and prevent further depression," he continued. "Action must be taken in full knowledge of the actual facts but without hysteria or exaggeration. Political stress must play no part in a program which to be sound must be both scientific and dispassionate."

HOSIERY STRIKERS VOTE FOR ARMISTICE

Philadelphia, April 5.—Hosiery workers voted to return to the H. C. Aberle mill pending an arbitration decision, that will be retroactive.

The company cut wages, secured an injunction, imported strikebreakers and were given every police aid. Carl Mackley, one of the unionists, was killed by strikebreakers and his funeral was attended by 35,000 persons. The company then reversed its position and consented to arbitrate. The strikers are members of the American Federation of Full Fashioned Hosiery Workers. This strike and similar movements in Kenosha, Wis., and Nazareth, this state, have been marked by a vigor that has attracted public attention to their cause.

ADDING MACHINE CHEATS

Sacramento, Calif., April 5.—A fraudulent adding machine has been uncovered by the State Department of Weights and Measures.

This latest method of gyping purchasers consists of a "silent key" on certain types of adding machines. The purchaser, who believes the adding machine, like the king, can do no wrong, is not aware that the "silent key" can be shifted. Amounts punched on the machine will show in the total but will not be itemized.

BARRIER TO ALIENS URGED BY OFFICIAL

Washington, April 5.—The nation owes a duty to its citizens, who should be protected from unrestricted immigration, declared Harry E. Hull, Commissioner-General of Immigration, in urging a selective policy for entrance of aliens.

"When we recollect that no further back than the year 1907 immigrants arriving in this country approximated 1,000,000 a year, we can see the need for our government's vigilance in protecting our population," said Mr. Hull.

"We are now a great democracy and as such can no longer be guided by that boundless generosity toward the applicant immigrant which has marked our immigration policy for the past 150 years.

"Why should we permit immigrants to come here to swell our army of unemployed?"

AGED EMPLOYES FAIL TO SECURE EMPLOYMENT

Washington, April 5.—Debarment of old-age workers is a grim fact in Rochester, N. Y., according to the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Employment office statements to the Bureau indicate that its greatest problem is to obtain jobs for men and women over 50 years of age, who are mentally and physically fit.

"Even with an intensive and persistent appeal for these people we are able to place only a small percentage of them."

Of 370 old applicants the office was able to place 140 and then only after special effort. Workers were often employed more "out of consideration for the employment bureau's appeal rather than the merits of the applicant."

HOOVER SIGNS BILL FOR PUBLIC WORKS

Washington, April 5.—President Hoover signed the Elliott-Keyes public buildings bill, authorizing an additional $230,000,000 for the government's continuing program of public works, thus paving the way for the Treasury to begin operations this year on construction totaling $90,000,000, including $18,000,000 for projects in New York.

ONE-MAN CAR RULING OUTLAWED BY COURT

New Orleans, April 5.—Shreveport, this State, lost its fight in the Federal Court of Appeals to prohibit one-man street cars.

The Federal court intimated that if the car company is losing money the Louisiana Public Service Commission may grant it an increase in rates.

Shreveport passed an ordinance in 1907 which provides for two men on each street car after 7 a. m. The court of appeals held that conditions have changed since then and referred to the company's claim that it is losing money. The ordinance was set aside.

The company claimed if it cut down the number of operators it would save $100,000 annually.

MILLIONS CAN'T READ

Washington, April 5.—Secretary of the Interior Wilbur appeals to religious bodies for their co-operation with the National Advisory Committee on Illiteracy.

"The number of people unable to read with understanding or to write a letter is variously estimated from 15,000,000 to 20,000,000," said Secretary Wilbur.

MACHINE BRINGS NEW EVILS; SOCIETY PAYS COSTLY PRICE

Hartford, Conn., April 5.—The Hartford Courant is not enthusiastic over automatic machinery, mass production and mergers that have wrought a silent revolution.

This daily newspaper is one of the oldest in America and is among the Nation's ultra conservative publications.

In a sensational editorial on the social effect of the new system the editor points out that this revolution is bringing a train of evils that include unemployment, destruction of craftsmanship, revolutionary sentiment and all sorts of paternalistic schemes to care for the unemployed.

So much work is being done by the machine that labor finds it difficult to secure employment, says the editor. Mergers in various lines and the spread of chain stores increase the workless.

"Just how these conditions will right themselves nobody seems to know, although various remedies have been suggested. Certain it is that if people can not find work and can not earn enough to support themselves and their dependents, we shall hear more and more of paternalistic schemes to take care of them.

"Does not this situation make it worth while to consider whether we are really on the right economic track?

"May it not come about that we are paying a too high price for our much vaunted efficiency? Is there not, after all, something to be said for the more leisurely processes of an earlier day?

"Will we really gain anything if we bring about a situation where industry and society find themselves heavily taxed to support those who are turned out at 40 and 45 because their productive capacity has diminished?"

Popular Rule Being Weakened; Lawmaker Paints Grim Picture

Philadelphia, April 5.—"Our Federal Constitution, as a living organism, is in process of deterioration, and not of growth," said Congressman Beck in an address to the American Philosophical Society.

The speaker has repeatedly shown that the Constitution is not a rigid instrument, but is flexible and can respond to the people's needs as expressed by sound, thoughtful public opinion.

In referring to the increasing number of commissions and bureaus, Mr. Beck said: "Some of us believe that the Constitution can not survive if the planetary system of the States be wholly absorbed in the central sun of the Federal Government. Our nation is too vast in area and our people too numerous to be governed altogether from Washington, and yet it seems impossible to combat the theory."

The grant of power to the President, through the flexible provision of the pending tariff bill, was classed as "another revolutionary change."

"To confirm their concepts of liberty," said Mr. Beck, "the framers of the Constitution not only expressly provided that Congress, and not the Executive, should impose taxes, but that all revenue bills must originate in the House of Representatives as the more directly representative body of Congress. And yet the House recently passed a law which gave an almost unlimited discretion to the President, with the aid of the Tariff Commission, to raise or lower any duty to the extent of 50 per cent of the statutory rate."

The speaker characterized the Eighteenth Amendment as "the crowning atrocity" and declared it "invades individual liberty in a manner at which Washington and Franklin would have stood aghast and which, in this respect, relegates our once proudly conscious States to the ignominous position of being mere police provinces."